II. LIFE TABLE MEASURES OF LONGEVITY

Expectation of Life

The most frequently used life table statistic is the expectation of life (e°_{x}), i.e., the average remaining lifetime in years for persons who have attained a given age (x). Expectation of life for specified ages is shown in the last column of the life tables.

Life expectancy at birth (e°_{0}) is 69.87 years (Table 2.1), which represents the average number of years that the members of the life table cohort may expect to live at the time of birth. Table A shows the higher life expectancy of females as compared with males within each color group, and of whites as compared with non-whites. At age 1, life expectancy is 70.16 years which is higher than at birth. This is a result of surviving the first year, when the mortality rate is quite high. Remaining years of expected lifetime are also shown in Table A for ages 25 and 65 years.

Survivors to Specified Ages

Another way of assessing the longevity of the life table cohort is by determining the proportion of it that lives to specified ages. The l_x column of Tables 1.1-2.5 is the numerator and the cohort population (100,000) is the denominator of this proportion. Sample survivorship, by color and sex, is shown as percentages in Table A.